

REMARKS

Applicants by way of this amendment have cancelled claims 4, 7-13 and 17-18 in conformance with the Examiner's requirements. Applicants respectfully submit that original claim 17 was inadvertently canceled in the last amendment. Consequently, old claim 17 is now presented as new claim 20.

No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims are in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all of the rejections be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be forwarded to the Applicants.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number given below, if such would expedite the allowance of this application.

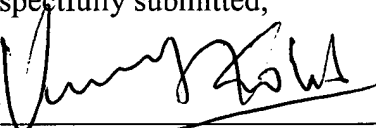
Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION

Applicant hereby makes a Conditional Petition for any relief available to correct any defect in connection with this filing, or any defect remaining in this application after this filing. The Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 13-2755 for the petition fee and any other fee(s) required to affect this Conditional Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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1/9/04